

Future interchange

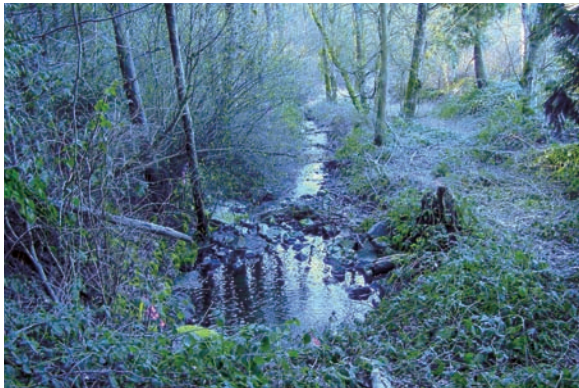


Federal Way is the eighth largest city in Washington State with a population of 88,580 people and more than 3,200 businesses. The population of King and Pierce counties have grown by 13 and 17 percent, respectively, over the last 10 years. Improvements to the I-5 – SR 18/SR 161 interchange will help support continued growth and reduce trip times for vehicles traveling through the corridor.



Traffic congestion on southbound I-5 through Federal Way.

Hylebos Creek and its tributaries flow through the Triangle project area. Throughout the phases of the project WSDOT will build detention ponds and add additional water quality features to protect Hylebos Creek.



Hylebos Creek near the project vicinity.



Contact Information

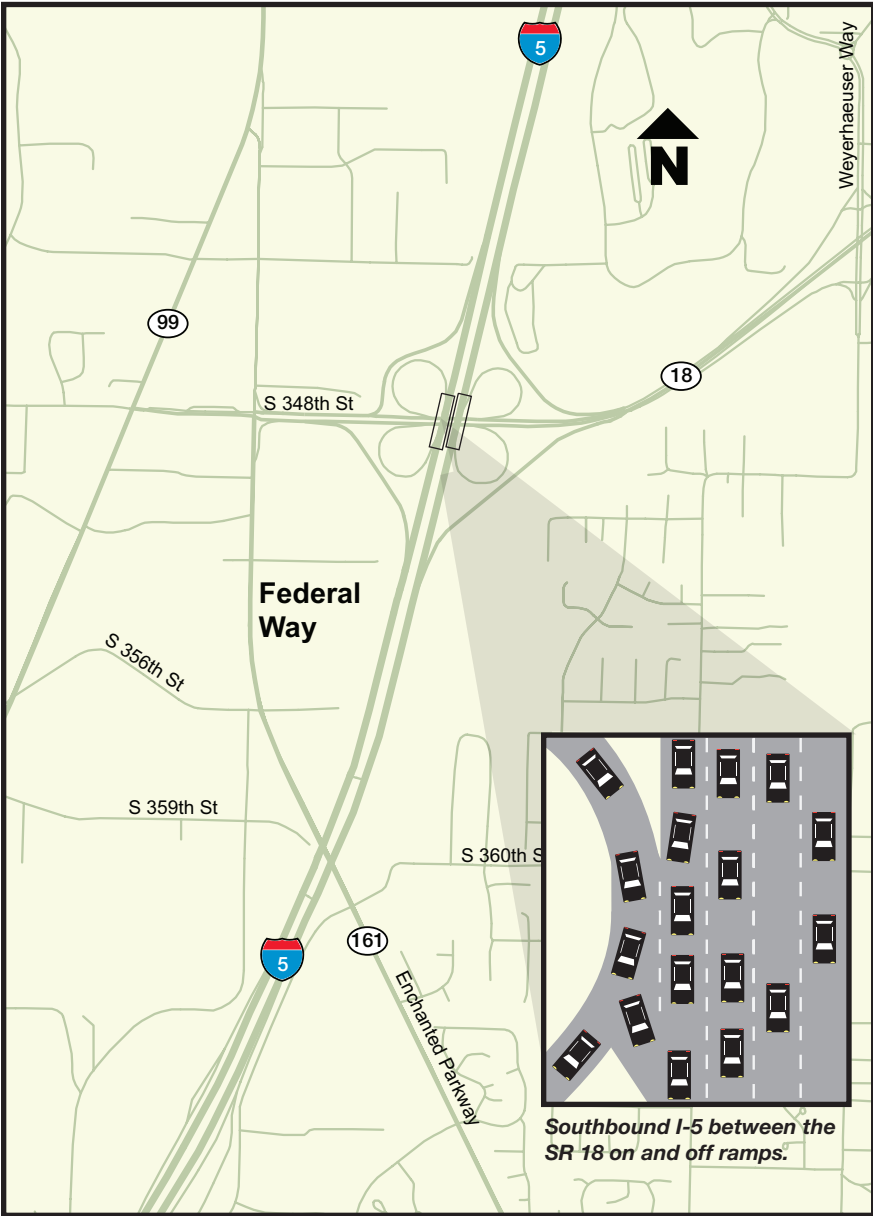
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Current interchange



Fixing a freeway relic from the 1960s

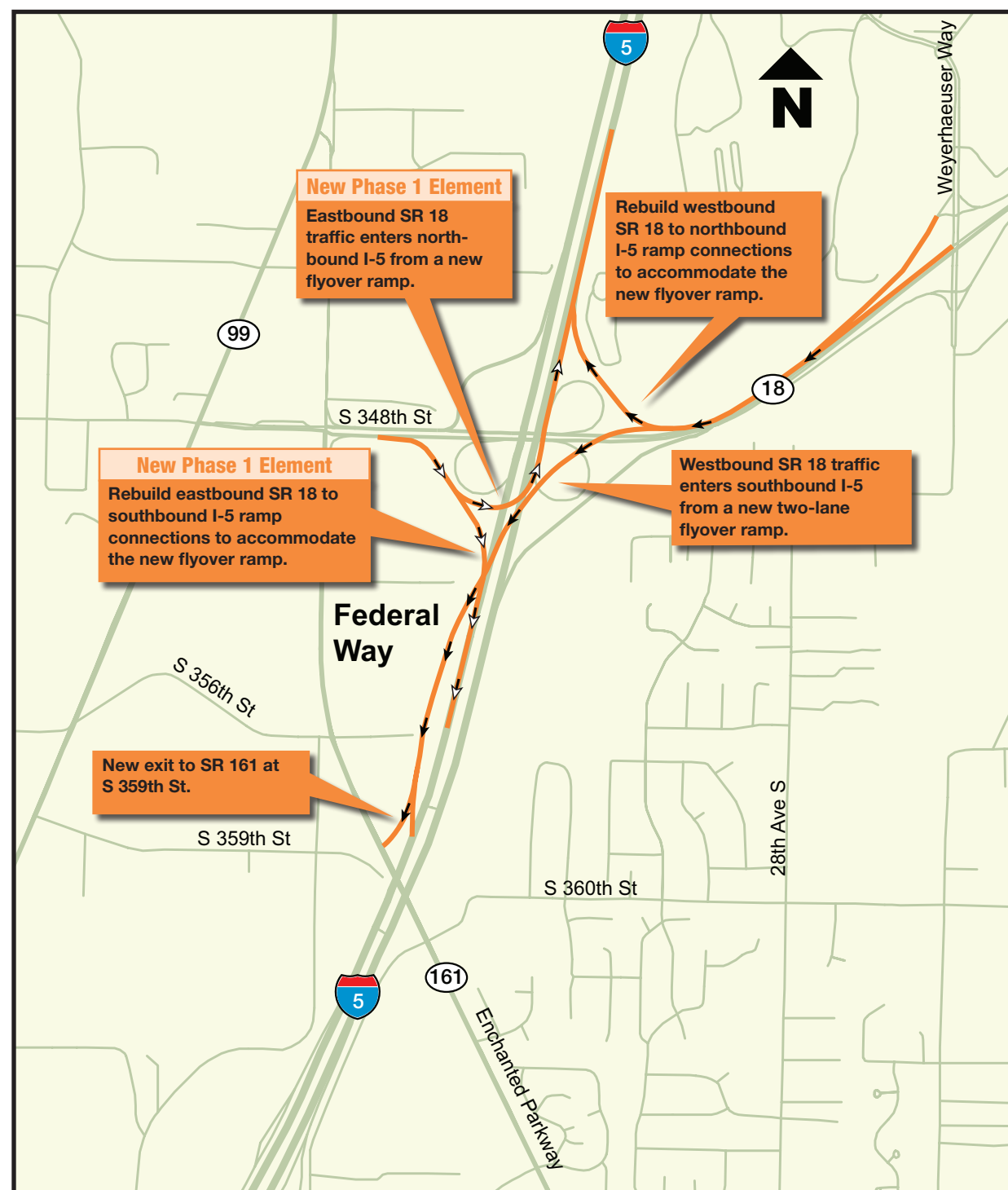
When the Interstate 5/State Route 18 interchange in Federal Way opened to traffic in the early 1960s its cloverleaf design was the state of the art in freeway design. But that era’s light traffic volumes concealed the major flaw of the cloverleaf interchange – the weaving that occurs when traffic merges on and off the freeway. Weaving causes congestion and increases the potential for collisions.

The problem wasn’t obvious in the 1960s because I-5 and SR 18 each carried less than a quarter of the traffic they do now. Since the 60s King and Pierce counties have grown significantly, pushing the interchange beyond its limits.

In 2003 and 2005 the state Legislature allocated \$112 million for interchange improvements. This funding falls short of WSDOT’s \$215-\$235 million estimate to complete the project. As a result, WSDOT will build the project in phases.

- In this first phase which will start in 2010 crews will:
- Build a two-lane flyover ramp connecting westbound SR 18 to southbound I-5 and rebuild the westbound SR 18 to northbound I-5 ramp to accommodate the new flyover ramp.
 - Construct a new exit ramp connecting the new flyover ramp to SR 161 at S. 359th Street.
 - Build a new eastbound SR 18 to northbound I-5 flyover ramp and rebuild the eastbound SR 18 to southbound I-5 ramp to accommodate the new eastbound to northbound flyover ramp.

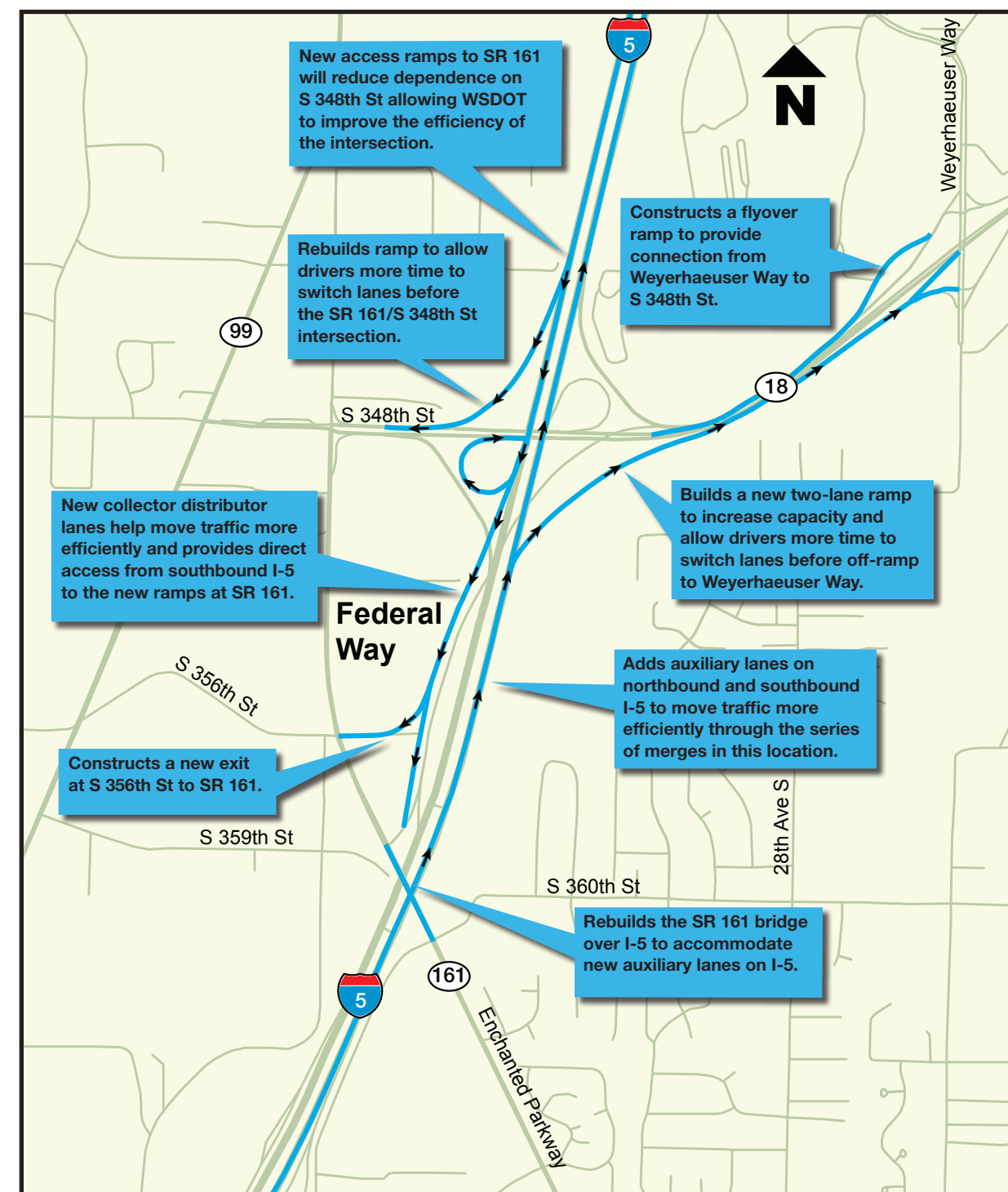
Phase 1



What does a \$112 million budget buy these days?

More than it used to. With our available funding of \$112 million we will be able to complete more of the project than we expected to because of a more competitive private contractor bidding climate and the lower cost of materials like steel.

Future phase(s)



Future Phase(s): Will be constructed as funding becomes available.

